

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO

NEA:SSOBER

S/S:MR. MOFFAT

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R 181659Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T STATE 038882

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, SY

SUBJECT: GOE CONCERN ABOUT AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND PRESS

PROMINENCE BEING GIVEN TO ASAD AND SYRIA

REF: (A) CAIRO 1761 (B) DAMASCUS 0837

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES CAIRO'S HAVING CALLED TO OUR ATTENTION EGYPTIAN HYPERSENSITIVITIES TO THE PROMINENT ROLE BEING ACCORDED TO ASAD AND SYRIA IN THE MEDIA, AND DAMASCUS COMMENTS THEREON. WE RECOGNIZE THE HYPERSENSITIVITY OF THE EGY, TIANS ON THIS MATTER AND WILL LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE STILL REGARD EGYPT AND SADAT AS THE KEY ARAB LEADER IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. WE WILL TRY TO DO SO IN WAYS THAT WILL NOT SUBJECT SADAT TO FURTHER CRITICISM FROM THE SYRIANS AND OTHERS, AS POINTED OUT IN THE DAMASCUS REFTEL.

2. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FROM CAIRO AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT DO TO REASSURE THE EGYPTIANS.

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ONE SPECIFIC POINT THAT YOU CAN MAKE TO FAHMY IS THAT IN THE NEXT ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AMBASSADORS TO

ARAB COUNTRIES AFTER THE SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICAN TRIP,
WE WILL BE BRINGING YOU BACK FIRST IN ORDER TO HAVE SADAT'S
VIEWS ON A COMMON STRATEGY BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE OTHER
ARABS. THIS WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT EGYPT IS THE KEY COUNTRY
AND THIS ACTION WILL BE APPARENT TO ALL. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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